

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /067 W
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R 311028Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5530
INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 1502

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BROWN, HAROLD, PINR, NO)
SUBJECT: SECDEF VISIT: BACKGROUND PAPER: DEFENSE REVIEW COMMISSION
REPORT

1. HISTORY:

A. BY ROYAL DECREE IN 1974, THE NORWEGIAN DEFENSE
REVIEW COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO: (1) REVIEW NORWAY'S
SECURITY AND DEFENSE SITUATION, AND (2) TO MAKE RECOMMENDA-
TIONS ON ITS LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES.

B. MEMBERSHIP WAS COMPOSED OF NINE MEMBERS NOMINATED
BY THE STORTING AND FOUR BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. (TWO
WERE MEMBERS OF THE STORTING INCLUDING THE COMMISSION'S
CHAIRMAN AND NOW PRIME MINISTER ODVAR NORDLI. FORMER LABOR
PARTY SECRETARY GENRAL RONALD BYE REPLACED MR. NORDLI AS
CHAIRMAN WHEN THE LATTER BECAME PRIME MINISTER IN JANUARY
1976.)

C. THE ORIGINAL TARGET DATE FOR THE COMMISSION TO
COMPLETE ITS WORK WAS "END OF 1975." HOWEVER, THIS DATE
WAS NOT MET AND THE COMMISSION WAS IN SESSION UNTIL
LATE 1977. THE COMMISSION'S REPORT HAS BEEN DELAYED
SEVERAL TIMES AND THE LATEST ANNOUNCED RELEASE DATE
IS 31 MARCH 1978.

2. MANDATE: THE COMMISSION'S MANDATE WAS: QUOTE
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IN LIGHT OF THE SECURITY TECHNOLOGICAL AND STRATEGIC
ECONOMIC RESOURCES, TO EVALUATE THE POSITION AND
STRUCTURE OF DEFENSE AS AN ELEMENT IN NORWEGIAN
SECURITY POLICY. UNQUOTE

3. THE COMMISSION BEGAN WITH GENERAL BRIEFINGS
ON SUBJECTS INCLUDING: (1) THE INTERNATIONAL SITUA-

TION AND TRENDS; (2) THE MILITARY SITUATION AND TRENDS;
(3) WEAPON TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT; (4) US-SOVIET
SALT TALKS; (5) CONFERENCE ON MUTUAL AND BALANCED
FORCE REDUCTIONS; (6) CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND
COOPERATION IN EUROPE; (7) DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

B. THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED, AS BACKGROUND MATTER,
CERTAIN SUBJECTS TO INCLUDE: (1) SECURITY ASPECTS OF
ECONOMIC ACTIVITY ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF; (2) PRINCIPAL
LINES IN SOVIET POLITICS; (3) POLICY OF DETENTE.

C. MILITARY BRIEFINGS STARTED WITH A VISIT TO
THE NATO'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. BRIEFINGS
THERE ON THE DEFENSE SITUATION FOR THE NATO
ALLIANCE, IN GENERAL, AND WESTERN EUROPE IN PARTICULAR,
WERE FOLLOWED WITH MORE DETAILED ACCOUNTS FROM AFNORTH
CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND FROM THE
NORWEGIAN DEFENSE COMMAND ON NORWAY'S SPECIAL POSITION.

D. FOR A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TASKS AT
HAND, THE COMMISSION VISITED CANADA, DENMARK, WEST
GERMAN, SWITZERLAND, AND THE UNITED STATES. US
VISIT INCLUDED: THE PENTAGON; SACLAN; OFFUTT, SCOTT,
AND EDWARDS AFB; CAMP LEJUENE; THE RAND CORPORATION;
HUGES AIRCRAFT; AND THE BOEING CORPORATION. THE
COMMISSION ALSO VISITED A NUMBER OF MILITARY STAFFS AND
UNITS IN NORTH NORWAY AS WELL AS IN THE OSLO AREA.

4. TRENDS/ALTERNATIVES:
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A. THE COMMISSION ATTEMPTED TO CLARIFY WHICH OF
THE POLITICAL SECURITY TRENDS ARE OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE
TO NORWAY'S SECURITY ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEXT DECADE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 1502

AND THE CHALLENGES AND THREATS THESE TRENDS MIGHT REPRES-
SENT. THE NEXT STEP WAS TO DETERMINE THE AIMS OF
NORWEGIAN SECURITY POLICY AND THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO
OBTAIN THESE AIMS. THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED THE ROLE
OF NORWAY'S DEFENSE IN ITS SECURITY POLICY AND THE
FUNCTIONS THAT THE DEFENSE SHOULD PERFORM IN ORDER TO
BE A SERVICEABLE INSTRUMENT IN THAT SECURITY POLICY.

B. THE COMMISSION THEN DISCUSSED MAJOR ALTERNATIVES FOR THE STRUCTURE OF NORWAY'S DEFENSE UNDER DIFFERENT ASSUMPTIONS OF: 1) FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK; (2) CONFLICT ALTERNATIVES; (3) COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE; (4) STANDING FORCES; (5) MOBILIZATION FORCES; (6) QUANTITY AND QUALITY; (7) OPERATING AND INVESTMENT EXPENDITURES.

C. REGARDING THE CONFLICT ALTERNATIVES, THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED THE DIFFERENT DEFENSE SYSTEMS WITH A VIEW TO CLARIFY THE NATURE OF AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE PRESENT DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO, A CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE WITH NO ALLIANCES, AND OTHER SYSTEMS SUCH AS GUERRILLA WARFARE.

D. ON THE BASIS OF THESE EVALUATIONS A DEFENSE PROGRAM WAS TO BE PREPARED FOR THE YEARS OUT TO 1985 AND A POLICY PROGRAM OUT TO 1990.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS: THE COMMISSION'S REPORT WAS PUBLISHED
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ON 31 MARCH 1978 AND CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING MAJOR
RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. NORWAY SHOULD REMAIN IN NATO.
- B. CURRENT NORWEGIAN DEFENSE STRATEGY IS VALID.
- C. CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES IS VALID.
- D. STRENGTHENING AND MODERNIZATION OF THE ARMED FORCES IS REQUIRED TO DEFEND THE KEY AREAS.
- E. DEFENSE SPENDING SHOULD BE INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF THREE PERCENT PER YEAR OVER THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS AS FOLLOWS:
 - 1979-1983 FOUR PERCENT AVERAGE PER YEAR
 - 1984-1988 THREE PERCENT AVERAGE PER YEAR
 - 1989-1993 TWO PERCENT AVERAGE PER YEAR

6. COMMENT: WHAT IS STILL NOT CLEAR IS WHETHER OR NOT AND HOW NORWAY'S CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES WILL IMPACT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT. WE HAVE HEARD, FOR

EXAMPLE, THAT SOME IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE URGING THAT THE
RECOMMENDED SPENDING INCREASES BY DELAYED "SEVERAL YEARS."
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